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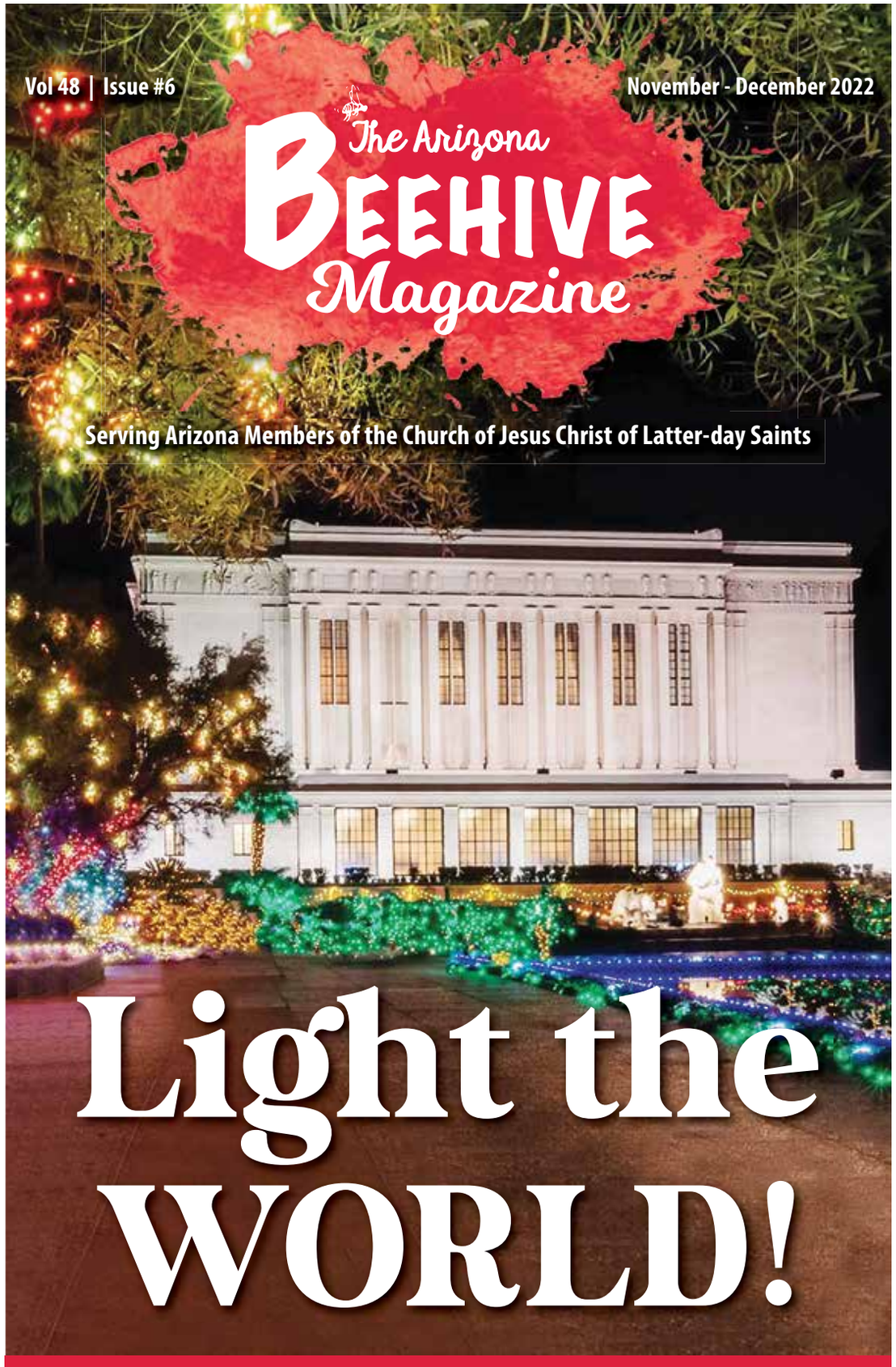
November - December 2022

The Arizona BEEHIVE Magazine

Serving Arizona Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Light the WORLD!

The Return of the Mesa Temple Lights

ON THE COVER

Christmas lights once again adorn the Mesa Temple grounds. Photo by Kary Ann Hoopes

contents

2 Light the World
Mesa Temple Lights Return

9 For the Love of a Child
Rosevelt Works with Childhelp

11 Kashiwagi Stadium
Park Named for Local Family

13 Community Service
JustServe Builds Unity

14 The Welcome Center
Partnerships Help

16 Prep Your Missionary
Your Greatest Assests

17 Proud Heritage
Hispanic History In AZ

18 Lego Master & Artist
Inspire Hospice Teams

19 Come Follow Me
Parable of the Plumb Line

21 Tempe Interfaith Fellowship
Annual Thanksgiving Service

22 What's Cooking?
Basic Pie Crust

Beehive Book Review
Power of Positivity

23 Family History
Heirloom Memories

24 Unshaken
A "Come Follow Me" Study

Self Reliance
Self Esteem Skills for Seniors

26 Bunker Family Funerals
Keeping It In The Family

27 Community Services

Business Directory

28 Just Serve
Christmas Charities

Valley Temple Schedules

Volunteers from stakes in the Mesa, Gilbert and Phoenix temple districts helped string lights on the trees. Photo by Robin Finlinson

Light The World!

The Return of the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights

By Robin Finlinson

Christmas approaches, as does the return of several well-loved events. That finally includes the Mesa Temple Christmas Lights and accompanying displays, which, because of renovations on the temple grounds, haven't heralded since 2017!

One of the dramatic upgrades is the newly-built star over the nativity, which will now be viewed from both sides. The stunning, beloved Fontanini figurines of the nativity will still be there though, as they have since the early 2000's. The only unchanged display will be of the wise men with their camels.

Look for the geometrically complex 3-D Moravian stars in the ash trees by the reflection pool. New this year, they are among only a couple of displays not designed and built by a remarkably creative team.

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Flowers were made with donated milk jugs. The light shines through the plastic.

The team includes thousands of volunteers tasked with presenting this Mesa icon again to the eager public. Several are members of other faiths. Volunteers have worked for a couple of hours, several months, or even years on the design, creation and installation of it all, as well as the replacement of items too worn out to be reused or repurposed. To conserve electricity, incandescent bulbs have been replaced with LED lights.

Though the lights were purchased, many were then incorporated with innovation and resourcefulness into the team's own creations. If you look very closely, you might spy a painted combination of rebar and duct tape, or notice that donated plastic milk jugs

Continued on pg. 5

What's The Buzz?

Like most Members of the Church, I was significantly touched by the messages delivered during our most recent General Conference. While listening to President Nelson, I was reminded of an anecdote regarding a conversation between a member and a non-member about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints being led by a living prophet.

Member: One indicator of Christ's true church is that it is led by a living, modern-day prophet!

Non-member: Does your church have a prophet?

Member: Yes, indeed! He is the President of our church and Christ's singular representative on the earth.

Non-member: Do you ever hear from him?

Member: Yes, we do. At least twice a year during a gathering we call General Conference! He speaks directly to us and gives us direction. He speaks for the Lord! We just heard from him a couple weeks ago...

Non-member: Amazing! What did he say?

Member: Uhhhhh, I don't exactly recall...

Non-member: You mean to tell me you have access to someone who communicates directly with the Lord, shares messages from Him with you, and you don't recall what was said?

Awkward ...

I do believe we've all been in such a position. To help ensure we are familiar with our prophet's most recent direction, our ward makes it a point to dedicate one Sunday School session to review and discuss all that he shared at General Conference. Individually, we are given almost immediate digital access to his talks. (Remember when we had to wait for the May and November printed Ensign to hit our mailboxes to read General Conference talks? Ancient history!) Regardless of the vehicle, we have ready access to the words of our Prophet. I believe such access is one powerful reason why "we live in the greatest time of the earth."

The written word remains relevant. As language and words change spelling and meaning, the truth of the Gospel remains. When delivered by living prophets to our ears and into our hearts, we are able to answer the question "What did your Prophet say to you?" with clarity and a testimony of the truthfulness of the words delivered. It's a marvelous thing!

Thank you for reading the words printed on the pages of The Arizona Beehive Magazine. I continue to be humbled by your feedback to the content we present one issue at a time, 6 times a year. Also a marvelous thing. Happy Thanksgiving. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year!

Michael O'Brien
Publisher

The Arizona Beehive Magazine

The Arizona Beehive, LLC
1225 West Main Street, Suite 101-439
Mesa, Arizona 85201
480.304.5646 • www.ArizonaBeehive.com

PUBLISHER
Michael O'Brien
publisher@ArizonaBeehive.com

EDITOR
Michael O'Brien
storyideas@ArizonaBeehive.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Leslie Thompson - Layout
Candace Khattab - Ad Design
Info@ArizonaBeehive.com

PHOTOGRAPHY
Robin Finlinson
Info@ArizonaBeehive.com

WEB DESIGN
Carl Eiferman
Info@ArizonaBeehive.com

SOCIAL MEDIA
Grace O'Brien
grace@ArizonaBeehive.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Talia A. K. Abbott
Allison Beckert
Emily Jex Boyle
Hillary Jade Fevrier
Robin Finlinson
Lin Sue Flood
Rachel Fuller
Tony Gutierrez
Sherrie Nattrass
Katherine Ogden
Nancy Rasmussen
Glen & Lynne Tolman
Barbie VanCott
Cindy R. Williams

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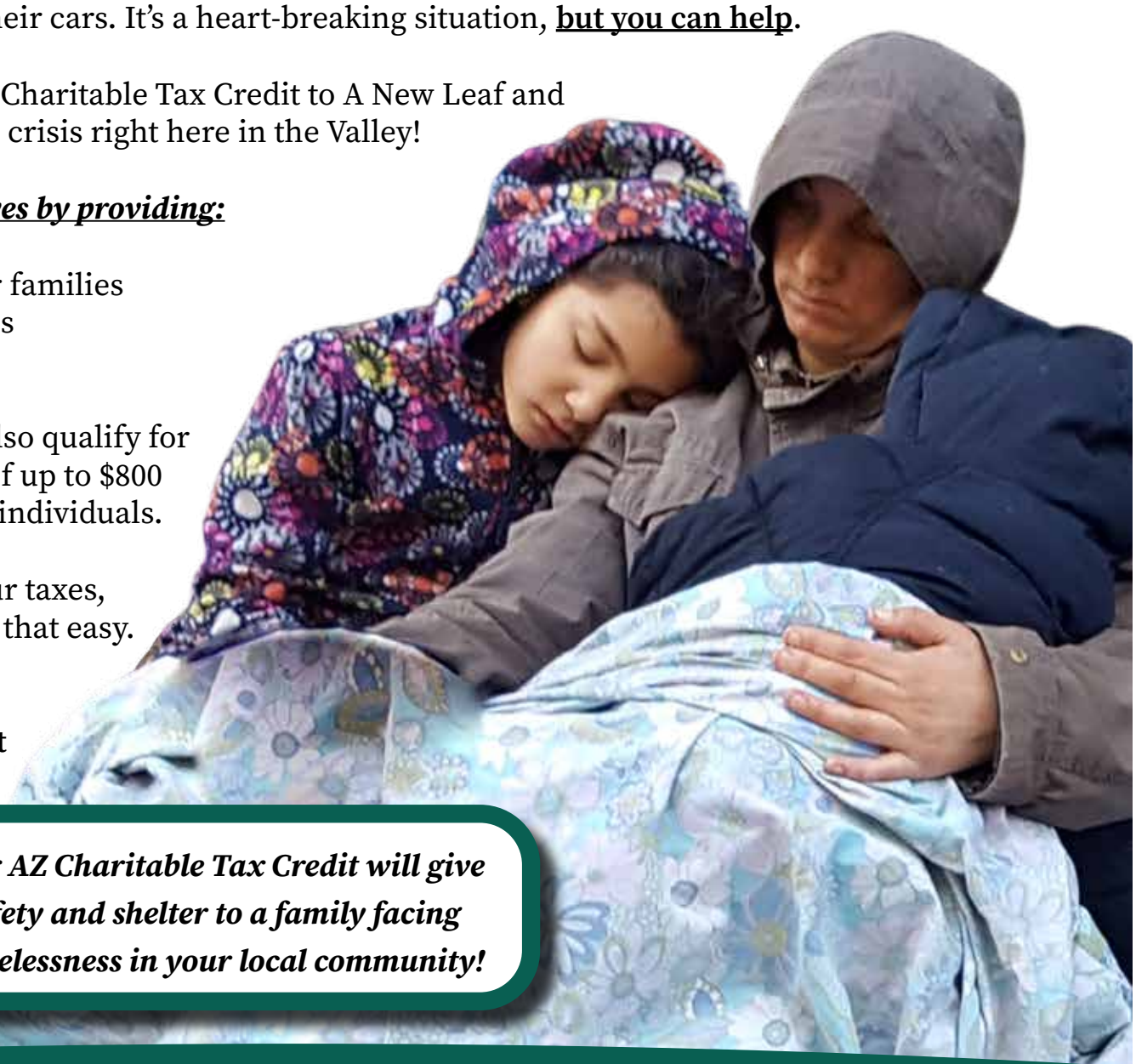

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Continued from pg. 2

Volunteers from stakes in the Mesa, Gilbert and Phoenix temple districts helped string lights on the trees.

Photos by Robin Finlinson

have been cut and repurposed into flower petals.

But the main focus is on 10 displays (vignettes) that tell of Jesus Christ, and less on the commercial lights. A stand at each vignette will have information that visitors can read night or day, along with QR codes that link to videos about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, the woman at the well, etc.

From 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm the temple grounds are illuminated by hundreds of thousands of lights, while music and spoken words play continuously at each vignette in 10 to 15-minute loops. Two musical numbers are heard at each stop. Bible verses are read by various voices on the scripture app of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and the recorded voices of modern-day prophets and apostles teach of Christ in their own words.

"That's the part we're most excited about," says Stacey Farr, the team's director, who is one of several assigned to the project as service missionaries. "What you'll hear is powerful. Absolutely powerful."

Numerous plant species live in this sacred garden. Some trees were transplanted elsewhere during the site renovations. Sister Farr happily reports that most of the olive trees survived their temporary relocation.

Dale and Donna Barker are supervisors specifically over the trees. Brother Barker relates that in 2013 during a youth event, "Stacey caught me 20 feet in a pine tree wrapping lights in it, and decided that I'd be a good person for trees." Seventeen-year-old Brett Barker was eight at that time. He has helped alongside his family members in a variety of ways since then but says (while wearing a safety harness) that his favorite thing to work with now is "probably the boom lifts." They raise one or two people high into the treetops.

Lights were strung in the trees in September because of October grounds maintenance. Freshly-planted real flowers and winter rye grass needed undisturbed time to grow. On three all-day "super Saturdays" in November, several assignments will be tackled.

Volunteers from 63 stakes have assisted in the process of readying the grounds. After final preparations, the grand, yet peaceful exhibit will be open to the public Monday through Sunday, November 25 through December 31.

The Light the World Giving Machines will also return with exciting changes. Those unique vending machines are still going to give patrons the opportunity to choose and purchase items to support local and international nonprofit charities that help people in need. And Gilbert's Water Tower Plaza will again host some of them.

However, two will also be stationed in Glendale, and traveling machines will spend two weeks at three other Arizona locations! They'll start in Flagstaff, then take a trailer ride to the Gila Valley and finally to Tucson.

Catholic Charities Community Services has been a beneficiary of the public's generosity via the Gilbert machines in the past. Malissa Larson, a senior director at that incredible organization, gratefully says to donors, "Your gift helps us Light the World!"

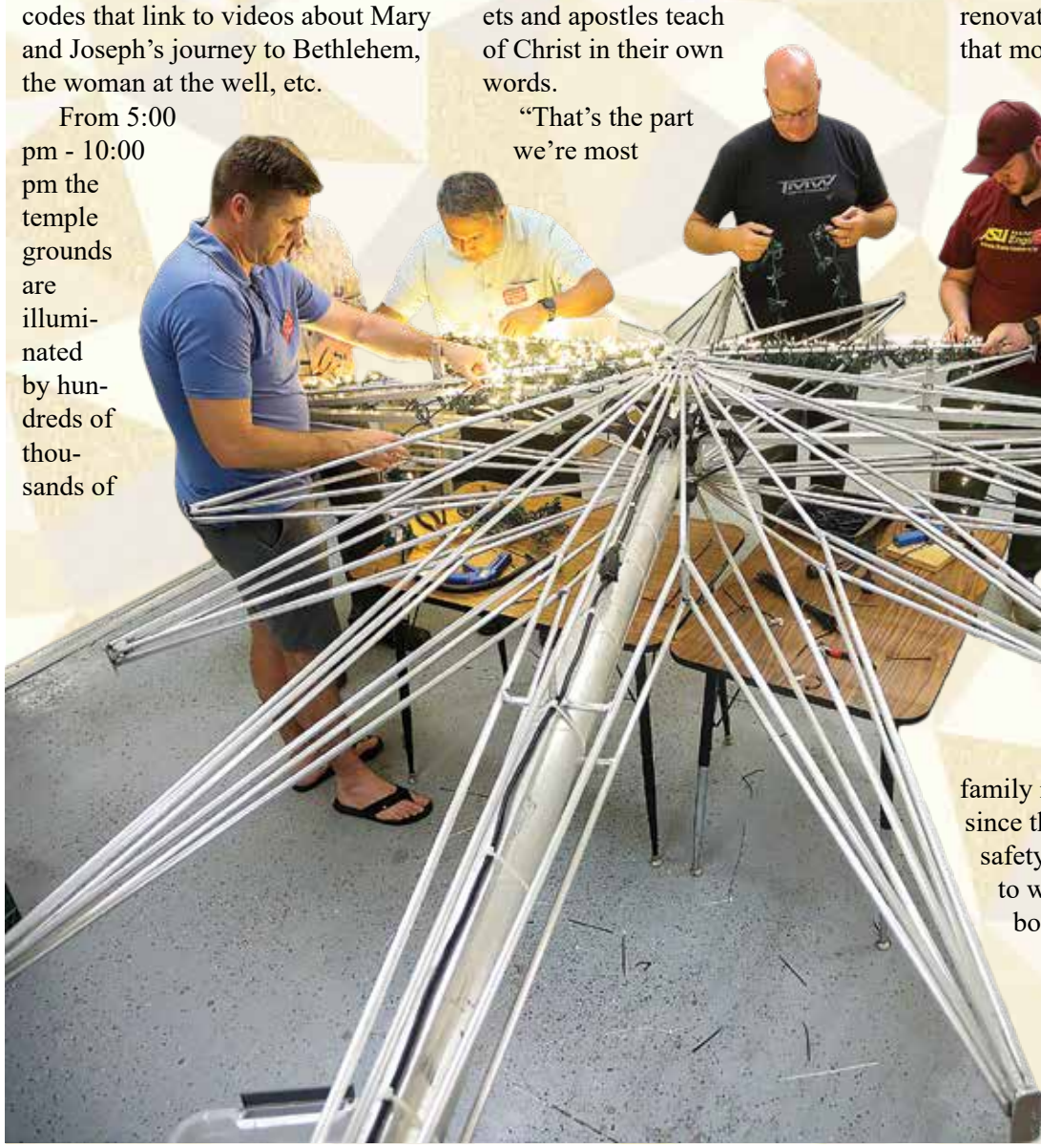

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Volunteers designed and built nearly every part of the displays at their warehouse/workshop and in some of their garages.

Continued on pg. 7

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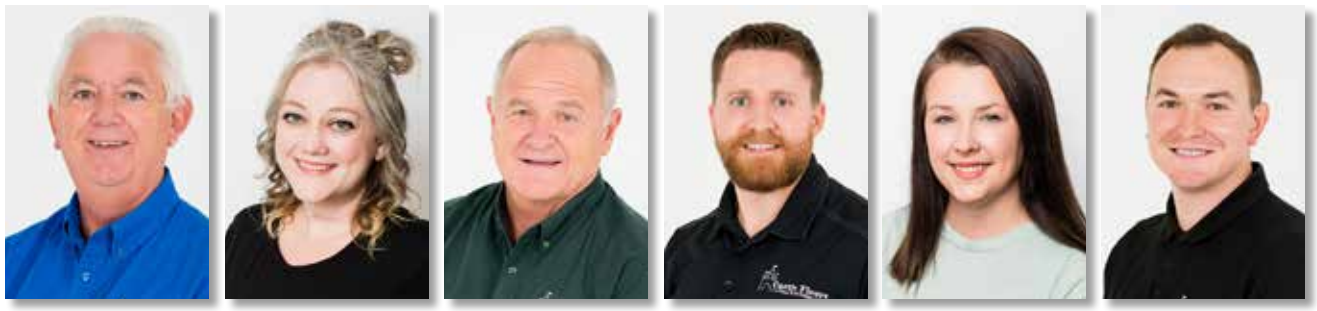

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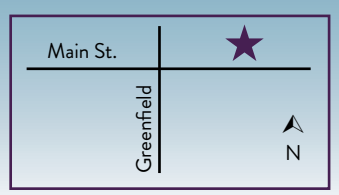

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Continued from pg. 5

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Volunteers from stakes in the Mesa, Gilbert and Phoenix temple districts helped string lights on the trees.

This year in the East Valley (Gilbert), the participating local nonprofits are AZCEND, Gathering Humanity, House of Refuge, Midwest Food Bank and Special Olympics Arizona. The international nonprofit is iDE Global.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints pays all credit card fees so the nonprofits receive 100% of the money collected.

Dates and times:

The machines will be open 24/7. Volunteers will be onsite to assist patrons from 9:00 am until midnight.

- **East Valley:** Nov 18 (beginning at 11:00 am) through Jan 1.
- **West Valley (Glendale):** Nov 22 through Jan 7.
- **Flagstaff:** Nov 17 through Dec 1.
- **Gila Valley:** Dec 3 through Dec 15.
- **Tucson:** Dec 17 through Jan 1.

Millions of people worldwide receive aid thanks to this innovative method, but that's only part of the goal. The Church hopes to provide as many individuals as possible with an opportunity to feel the love of Christ through giving.

Giving machines will be located in 17 other states, plus in Australia, Canada, Guatemala and Philippines this year.

Other Christmastime happenings free to the public:

- **Mesa Temple Visitors Center:** Approximately 150 international nativities in the multipurpose room, which will be open 5:15 pm - 10:00 pm, including Christmas Day. The rest of the center will be open 10:00 am - 10:00 pm, except for its 4:00 pm opening Christmas Day. November 25 through December 31 at 455 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ 85203.
- **Maricopa Wells Ward:** Approximately 200 nativities, also from around the world, in the building's cultural hall/gym. December 17, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at 45235 W. Honeycutt Ave., Maricopa, AZ 85139.
- **Summit Point Ward:** Drive-through event with several large outdoor nativities displayed in the building's parking lot. December 16 and 17, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm at 2520 N. Hartford St., Chandler, AZ 85225.

Everyone is welcome at these events. Come for a moment of peaceful contemplation on your own, or bring others and celebrate the Savior's birth together.

Patrons of the Light the World Giving Machines. Photo by Robin Finlinson

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Volunteers designed and built nearly every part of the displays at their warehouse/workshop and in some of their garages.

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FOR THE LOVE OF A CHILD

Rosevelt's Continuing Work With Childhelp

By Sherrie Nattrass

On Saturday, September 24th, 2022 at Rosevelt's Annual Concert/Fundraiser, with Sherriff Lamb, America's Got Talent's Chapel Hart, and Country Award Winner Sean Gasaway, she presented her first *Lifetime Achievement Award*. The recipients were two ladies who have given their lives to help over 11.5 million abused children, *Sara O'Meara* and *Yvonne Fedderson*. These heroic women founded *Childhelp* 63 years ago, when Nancy Regan asked the young Hollywood Actresses, who entertained the troops with Bob Hope, to focus their efforts here in the United States.

Photo courtesy of Sherrie Nattrass

Rosevelt's performs at her Annual Concert/ Fundraiser.

Rosevelt said, "These amazing women have shown me what heroism is—to not only understand that children today need our help—but they also do something to make a difference in children's lives every single day!"

Four years ago, these ladies invited Rosevelt to be a *Youth Ambassador* for Childhelp. They loved how ambitious she was, creating a music video with Dick Van Dyke when she was only 10, and working so diligently in her voice lessons, performances, etc. They also recognized something else, something that reminded them of themselves when they were young.

Rosevelt accepted the opportunity to join them in their quest to put an end to the 5 children who die each-and-every day from child abuse. She joined with a recognized list of Childhelp Ambassadors and thought leaders, like: *Betty White*, *Kathie Lee Gifford*, *Jane Seymour*, *Cheryl Ladd*, *Mark Victor Hansen*, *John O'Hurley*, etc. and started a campaign called *#5TooMany*. She named it this because, "I have five brothers, and I can't even imagine what I would do if anything happened to just one of them!"

Photo courtesy of Sherrie Nattrass

Rosevelt with Childhelp Founders Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson.

Photo courtesy of Sherrie Nattrass

Girls of Chapel Hart with Rosevelt—Trea Swindle, Danica Hart, Rosevelt and Devyn Hart.

Now, at 15 years of age, Rosevelt has inspired thousands of children and adults to join in the commitment to end child abuse, bullying, and sex trafficking by making a promise to share this awareness with at least 5 other people.

During the 2021-2022 school year, Rosevelt, along with her comedian/corporate trainer/father, Jef Rawls (Owner of JesterZ Improv), began presenting an introduction to Childhelp's "5 Safety Rules" at 45 school assemblies—reaching thousands of students, and faculty across Arizona.

This evidence based, prevention education, presented by one of their peers, is making a difference! Children who attend these assemblies surround her afterwards with gratitude for the information and access to the *1-800-4- A-Child* Childhelp Hotline that connects children and youth in crisis with a licensed counselor.

This year, to help children who face such difficulties, Rosevelt's goal is to visit 100 School Assemblies during the 2022-2023 school year. These will extend across Arizona, also reaching students in Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, Utah, etc.

If you would like Rosevelt to come to your school, or to learn more about how you can help, Rosevelt's Challenge, #5TooMany, make donation to her 501C3 Non-Profit, and see how she is also making a difference with Liberation Award recipient, Tim Ballard as an Ambassador of O.U.R., go to RoseveltSings.com

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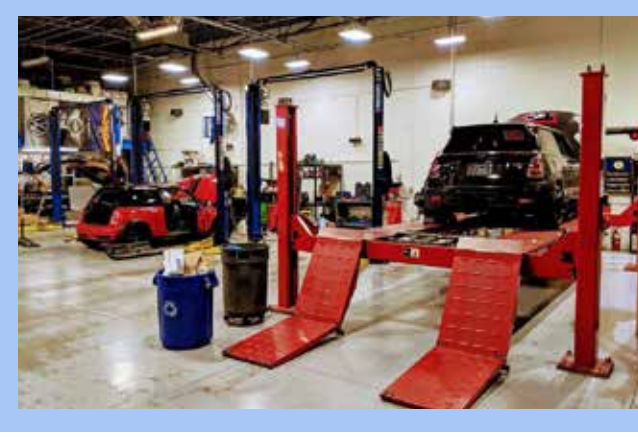

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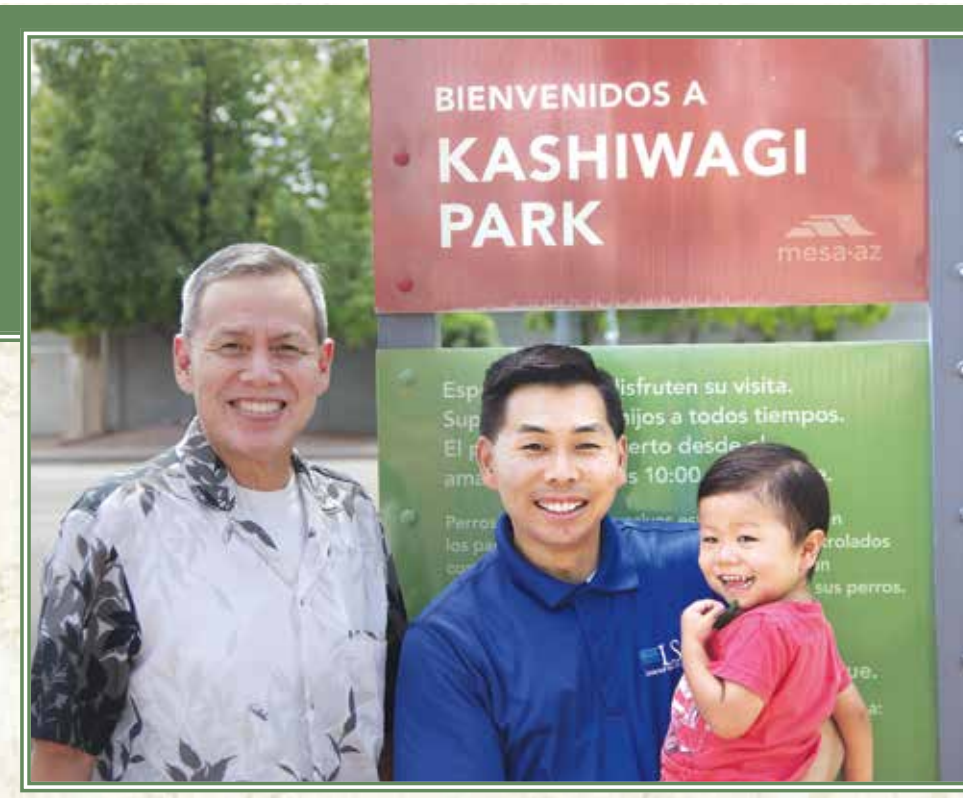
Kashiwagi Stadium

Local Park Named for the Kashiwagi Family



Three generations of the Kashiwagi family: Father, Dean Takeo Kashiwagi, son, Jacob Shizuo Kashiwagi and grandson, Shizuo Chen Kashiwagi.

By Barbie VanCott

The Kashiwagi family first moved to Arizona in 1981. Brother Dean Takeo Kashiwagi was sent by the United States Air Force to earn his Master's Degree in Construction Engineering. He served as a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force.

He received the distinguished graduate award by the ROTC, which was achieved before his Master's degree. After traveling with his family on various assignments, the Air Force sent him back to Arizona, to obtain his PhD at Arizona State University. From his doctoral research Dr. Dean Kashiwagi was able to develop a project delivery model, known as the Best Value Approach (BVA) that is now the most licensed technology coming out of ASU in the last 30 years. The BVA has been utilized over 2000 times in projects with 90 plus organizations, totally $6.6 Billion, minimizing project costs by up to 30%.

Brother Kashiwagi and his wife had eight children. Their son, Jacob often cared for his younger brothers and sisters. He would gather them together, along with other children in the neighborhood and go to the nearby park on Hermosa Vista Drive. The children ranged in age from four to nineteen.

Jacob was very inclusive, so everyone was welcome. His father called him the Pied Piper. He would organize games of capture the flag, dividing the kids into two teams. They also played Ultimate Frisbee. This went on for ten years, and all the kids called the park Kashiwagi Stadium. They even made T-shirts bearing that name.

Then in 2016, Jacob left to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The games in the park continued, with Johnathan Allred and Brett Engstrom taking the lead. They, along with the other kids in the neighborhood, rallied together and submitted letters to the city of Mesa, requesting the park to be named Kashiwagi Park. The City of Mesa approved their petitions and renamed the park. What an honor for the Kashiwagi family and a tribute to Jacob.

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Building Unity through Community Service

JustServe Serves During the Holidays

By Katherine Ogden

Ruth Pagán just might have one of the most unique callings in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. "It's a very different kind of calling," says Ruth, "but a very rewarding one."

As an Arizona Just Serve Director, she oversees JustServe in a majority of the area in the state of Arizona.

JustServe started in 2014 and has been changing and growing continuously.

JustServe Specialists, on ward and stake levels, have regular trainings. There are also coordinating councils that consist of 6 to 13 stakes. Much technical training is shared with specialists, combined with support and providing guidelines about things that can and can't be done.

"The JustServe website is a tool for the modern age," says Ruth. "We are not working explicitly within the church, now. This is a community tool. Most people do not realize how much work the church does within the community and how many donations are made silently to external organizations."

One external organization served is the Resurrection Street Ministry. "It is a wonderful organization," says Pastor Bill Berry who is the founder and organizer of the group. Local JustServe specialist Donna Robinson adds, "They do amazing things for the veterans, for the elderly in need and the homeless community. They help others learn to serve, to build their own lives. They also have missionaries who regularly come to help put food boxes together and hand out the food at the "Chosen to Serve" help store. They help at the "S.T.U.F.F. thrift store, too (an acronym for Special Treasures of Useful Fashions and Furniture). It's an awesome place that loves to serve and bless others in need."

Photo by Robin Finlinson

Ruth Pagán at the JustServe table, at the AZ Golden rule Day, sponsored by the Arizona Interfaith Movement.

Photo courtesy of Donna Robinson

Resurrection Street Ministry Inc. Food Pantry.

It shows how the JustServe organization helps; ideally, first with volunteers, then commodities, if needed, through the Bishops Storehouse or Deseret Industries, and occasionally grants for purchases of special needs, such as kosher or other special religious or dietary requirements.

They often work with other groups such as Lutheran Social Services, A New Leaf and St. Vincent De Paul. The Community Communication specialists (public relations) also work closely with the Just Serve specialists.

"One of my favorite scriptures is D & C 58:27," says Ruth, "'Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness'… so, let's be anxiously engaged and see what we can bring to pass! We can make great things come to pass out of small things."

With the holidays approaching, there will be organizations with various needs to fill for food, toys and other Christmas items. For information on how to help or what items are most needed, go to the JustServe.org website or download the JustServe app.

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By Emily Jex Boyle

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Empower Local Immigrant and Refugee Families, Together

Nina Allred and Dinorah Graham share enthusiasm and commitment to help families in their local community and beyond. Nina, a Peruvian, is the Community Outreach and Engagement Supervisor for Mesa Public Schools. Dinorah, a Guatemalan, is the Director of the Mesa Welcome Center located at the downtown Inter-Stake Center. They started collaborating last year. "After meeting Dinorah," Nina explains, "I realized I had found somebody who was as passionate as I am about Hispanic outreach."

Both women came to the United States to attend college. Nina knew the language but remembers that adapting was not easy. Dinorah came to study English. Both can relate to those who attend classes offered at the Welcome Center, remembering the struggle of finding their way in a new country.

Last year, Nina was invited to speak at the Mesa Welcome Center Adaptation classes. She addressed the staggering difference between Latin American and American education systems as well as between differing norms for parent engagement. Each time Nina visits the center, she brings information and resources for families. "Mesa Public Schools is the largest school district in the state," she explains, "and thanks to that, we have a myriad of programs available to the community, even for those who don't speak English."

The center is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Thanks to generous donations, it weekly offers free classes and access to valuable resources helping immigrants and refugees from around the world feel at home in a new country.

Immigrants attend free classes at The Welcome Center. Photo by Dinorah Graham

As director, Dinorah explains, "The center brings people together. When we learn the language and culture, we can become more united."

Both Nina and Dinorah see the Inter-stake Center in Mesa as an ideal

Continued on pg. 15

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The Welcome Center
Continued from pg. 14

location to bring people together, particularly from immigrant populations. Historically, this location is where thousands of Latin American Latter-day Saints stayed while attending the Mesa Temple, which was their nearest temple at the time. Both women agree, the culture of hospitality is strong.

Programs offered from both resources are complementary, revealing a valuable collaboration between the Mesa Public Schools and The Welcome Center. In April 2022, a joint event was held called Noche de Recursos de Educación en la Comunidad (Community Education Resource Night). Attendees chose from five workshops, including affordable online university education program BYU Pathways, and Mesa Public Schools. Presenters spoke in Spanish and answered many questions from the audience.

Nina and Dinorah hope to plan a series of follow-up events, focusing on topics such as health resources, and job/career opportunities. For now, Nina continues to visit the center as a guest, bringing information to its leaders and clients. "The center is truly a blessing to this community. I can't think of a better partner in our efforts as a district to provide equitable access to opportunities, resources and support so all families can engage in meaningful learning."

For more information, visit the Mesa Welcome Center Facebook page, or www.mpsaz.org.

Photo by Emily Boyle

Nina Allred and Dinorah Graham both came to the United States from Latin America. Together they are empowering immigrant and refugee families through education.

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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

By Allison Beckert

Take Your Greatest Assets On Your Mission

Missionaries can often sound, act, and look alike. The goal of the mission is shared, as is the strong faith of the missionaries who power it. However much you sacrificed to go do the work, there are a few things that should never be left at home or locked away.

The one thing that should never be left, and which is actively asked and grown during preparation and training is your testimony. However, your testimony isn't just what you share from the pulpit, and it isn't a rote speech prepared for sharing with investigators. The use of the word "testimony" in the church applies not to just a public sharing of experience or belief, it means the root of that belief and the root of our faith that helps us move mountains for ourselves, the Lord, the mission, and for the benefit of those we meet. So, pack your testimony. Pack it for yourself first, know where your fire comes from, and continue building it throughout your preparation and your mission.

Pack your talents, as well. We teach and share that talents are meant to be shared, meant to be built and developed, and meant to glorify God. While much of missionary instruction encourages throwing full effort and energy into the work, talents aren't meant to be tossed to the side. Talents are also far more varied than playing an instrument or drawing beautiful pictures. While some talents can't be indulged on the mission, they are still part of what make you unique and special to God and those you meet. Shared interests can open doors that would otherwise be unavailable in a setting like a lesson or church activity.

Photo by Pexels from Pixabay

Shared interests and talents can open doors that would otherwise be unavailable.

Some of your most valuable tools on your mission will likely see amazing development during your mission, so bring the seeds of your most essential tools: Love and Compassion. We're encouraged to love one another, to mourn with those that mourn, comfort those that stand in need of comfort. The times when you have experienced this role before your mission will just be seeds of a greater talent and skill. Those you meet and teach as missionaries, when they're touched by the Spirit, will often be at their most vulnerable and in troubling positions in their lives. Remember your seeds, those rare moments when, as a youth, you may have experienced a truly vulnerable friend or family member open up.

Finally, listen. Our Savior listens, to us and to everyone. Practice listening with attention, with heart, and with the Spirit. And when listening is difficult, or isn't coming easily, pray and remember what being listened to feels like.

By Tony Gutiérrez

HERITAGE PROUD

Historian Chronicles Hispanic History of the Church in Arizona

Tears welled in Dr. Eduardo Pagán's eyes as he pointed to a quote from Elder Lauritz Nielsen Garff, one of the first Church missionaries to Mexico.

Translated in English, it read: "On Thursday, the 24th of May, I baptized José Severo Rodriguez [and] María La Cruz Pasos." The couple was the first family to join the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Mexico.

"These are my great-great-great-grandparents, on my mother's side," Dr. Pagán said. "They're my children's fourth great-grandparents, as well. So, we're very proud of that particular heritage.

The slide was part of a lecture Dr. Pagán - the Bob Stump Endowed professor of history at Arizona State University - titled "The Hispanic Heritage of Arizona and in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" that he recently gave at the Mesa Temple Visitors Center.

"The Latter-day Saint outreach to Spanish-speakers played an integral role in Mormon settlement of Arizona," Dr. Pagán explained. "It was actually the outreach and missionary work to the Spanish-speaking populations that predated and intimately connected the Mormon colonies in Arizona."

"When the Latter-day Saints left Nauvoo, and they crossed the Mississippi, they headed out west, they were headed to Mexico. That was their destination," said Dr. Pagán. "In many ways they were following the steps of some of the other Americans. Where the Latter-day Saints were different, though, was their destination was not the population centers of the American West."

Dr. Pagán shared that in his research of the minutes from the Council of the Fifty at the time, Brigham Young argued that missionaries should no longer be sent to the "Gentiles" — those of European descent — bur rather join with the Native Americans, who were considered to be descendants of the Lamanites.

"What caught my attention was the frustration that Brigham Young expressed about missionary work in the United States," Dr. Pagán wrote in his e-mail. "It reveals that missionary work to the Spanish-speaking world was an integral part of the plan to move West, and the future of the Church. The mission to Mexico via Arizona was only the first wave of that."

In 1875, President Young assigned Daniel Webster Jones to lead of a group of missionaries to Mexico, where they traveled through Arizona. "They're coming down through Arizona, and all throughout they stop, and they preach, and they baptize," said Dr. Pagán. "Some of the earliest batches of Spanish-speaking members trace to this journey, even before they get down into Mexico.

During their trek, they sent back reports to Salt Lake City of areas that would be good for settlement, leading to the establishment of towns such as Mesa, Lehi and Snowflake.

Those families that settled in Northern Mexico established what would be known as the *"colonias."* "Many of the families that I knew that came from the colonias, spoke better Spanish than I did," Dr. Pagán said.

In 1915, President Joseph F. Smith assigned Rey L. Pratt to work with the Spanish-speaking population in the United States as a part of the Western States Mission. "From that point, we start to see the first full-time Spanish-speaking missionaries who were called to the Western States," said Dr. Pagán.

In 1918, President Smith established the Spanish-speaking Mission in the United States. The earliest Spanish-speaking congregation that Dr. Pagán could identify was established in Mesa in 1919 as the Spanish-American Branch.

Mesa developed into the epicenter of spiritual life for Spanish-speaking members of the Church throughout the world because in 1945 it became the first Temple to offer rituals in Spanish. "For 56 years, Mesa becomes a significant site of religious

Continued on pg. 18

Dr. Eduardo Pagán presents local Hispanic history at the Mesa Temple Visitors Center.

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A Lego Master and an Artist *Inspire* Their Hospice Teams

By Lin Sue Flood

Forget bingo. Forget "old movies." Ron Parmley has no interest in the activities his housemates enjoy at Lincoln Heights, an assisted living home in Phoenix. "I've always liked to work with my hands," the 82-year-old explains.

Ron gave up his hobby of carpentry when his health declined, but his three doting daughters wondered if Legos might be a good replacement for woodworking. "So we got him the Lego kit for the Golden Gate Bridge," Robin Parmley recalls.

That was the first of more than 40 elaborate sets the so-called Lego Master has tackled, including the Taj Mahal, White House, Disney Castle, Ice Castle, Hogwarts Castle, a three-floor police station, Barcelona's Camp Nou soccer stadium, Van Gogh's "The Starry Night" and a 10,000-piece masterpiece, called the Haunted House.

Hospice of the Valley social worker Cathy Jacobsen is astounded by her patient's talent. "What Ron does is so unique! He can sometimes finish elaborate sets in a matter of days," she says. "I'm very happy that more people will be inspired by his Lego creations."

In typical Ron fashion, he deadpans, "It's not that difficult if you just follow directions."

So, what's his dream project? "He's waiting for Lego to come up with a kit for the Arizona Cardinals stadium," Robin chuckles.

Avinell MacDonald was 60 when she picked up a paintbrush for the very first time. "I didn't think I had any talent," the 89-year old Hospice of the Valley patient confesses, "but I kept going. I read some books and taught myself to mix colors and suddenly, I just took off."

Her determination ignited something in hospice chaplain Ken Collins, who is quite possibly her biggest groupie. At 63, he also decided to give painting a try.

"Avinell is one incredible artist and one incredible person!" Ken says. "The beauty of her paintings is only matched by the beauty of her inspiring life. She has unleashed in me a long-held passion."

Social worker Cathy Jacobsen with Robin and Ron Parmley. Photo by Hospice of the Valley

The two enjoy sharing their latest projects and discussing color and technique. "I never dreamed what I was doing would get him so excited," Avinell laughs. "He's got talent and if he pursues it, he's gonna be a lot better than I am someday!"

She loves sharing her work with her entire hospice team, who are in awe of the framed collection that fills her Chandler bedroom studio.

"They all encourage me, especially when I mess up. They're just so kind and generous and don't make me feel old," she jokes. "I'll be 90 in a few months, and look at me. I'm still at it!"

"We always say that hospice care includes making the most of life, enhancing it with what you love," Ken says. "With Avinell, that means nurturing her artistic side too."

Her fan club can't wait to see what she paints next.

Lin Sue Flood is director of Community Engagement at Hospice of the Valley. To learn more about services and programs, visit hov.org or call (602) 530-6900.

Avinell MacDonald and Chaplain Ken Collins. Photo by Hospice of the Valley

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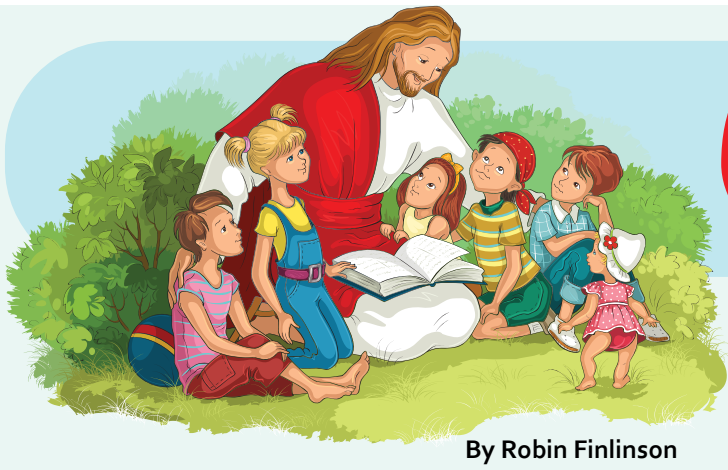
Hispanic History of the Church
Continued from pg. 17

devotion until the dedication of the Mexico City Temple in 1983," Dr. Pagán said. "Many members of the Church in Latin America would travel here to worship in the Temple."

In concluding his talk, Dr. Pagán noted that Spanish was the common tongue of the people, including the Native Americans who often spoke different languages from each other. He also noted that much of Arizona's territorial economy was developed by the Mexican population.

"The outreach to Spanish-speaking populations is intimately connected to the settlement of Arizona," Dr. Pagán said. In noting the number of Spanish-speaking congregations currently in the state, he noted that the "are all descendants of that outreach, of that development, of the efforts of the Church to respect and embrace, to allow the Spanish language and also history and heritage to develop."



Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings in the manual titled *"Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families"* scheduled in November and December, 2022, comprising Daniel through Malachi in the Old Testament.

By Robin Finlinson

The Parable of the Plumb Line

Grasshoppers multiply best in dry weather when there are fewer threats to their survival. But then they get hungry. When they find lush vegetation, they swarm in a mob and devour.

There was a long drought of revelation from heaven after people rejected Jesus Christ and His apostles (Matt. 21:43). But the Lord said that in the latter days, He would give the children of Zion not only the former winter rain with its moderate amount of revelation, but also the latter or spring rain (Hosea 6:3; Joel 2:23). Since spring has more days of rain than the other seasons, He was promising them a gradual outpouring of restored and additional truth shortly before His Second Coming.

When that outpouring began in the early 1800's through a prophet of God (Amos 3:7), and the children of Israel started to gather and grow spiritually healthy again, like lush blades of grass in a fruitful field, the grasshoppers came to devour (Amos 7:1-2).

The prophet Amos saw a vision of this. He then wondered how the Lord's covenant people (Jacob/Israel) would arise once they'd been mowed down and those committed to Him were small in number—merely a remnant. He beseeched the Lord to tell him. And the Lord answered. "Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel…" (Amos 7:5,7-8).

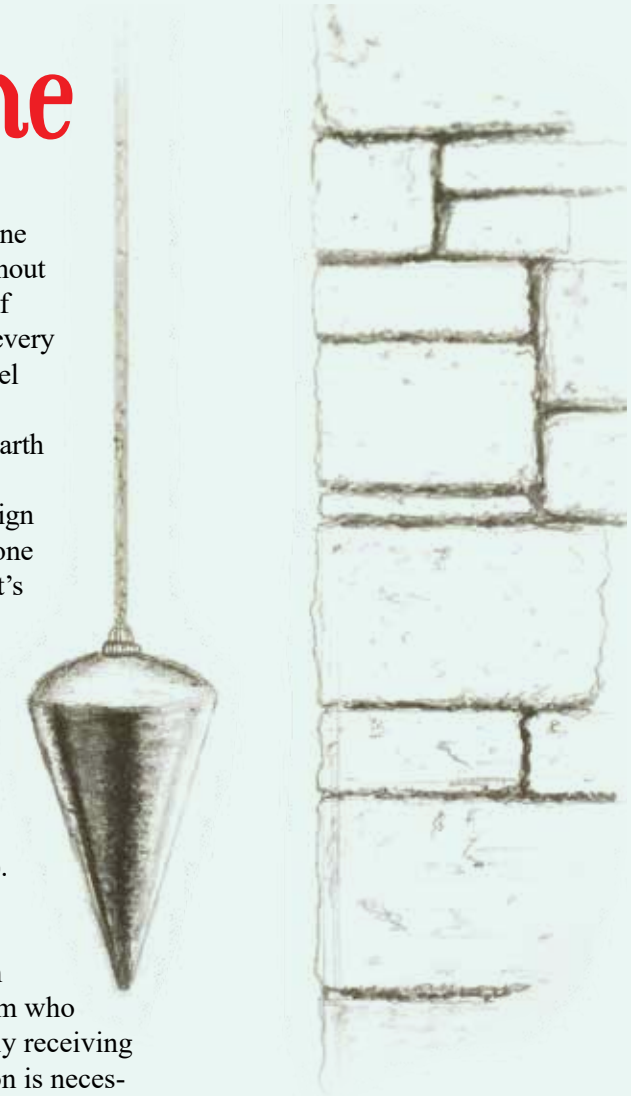
What's a plumb line? It's a standard used to keep a structure plumb (exactly vertical) as it's being built—stone by stone, for example. By constantly referring to it, the edifice will become upright and stable, rather than crooked and eventually fall.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the plumb line. He mercifully came as promised in the midst of His people and the midst of time, to be their Exemplar. Being precisely aligned with His Father, He was also the only one who could redeem them from the requirements of justice when they fell short of plumb.

The edifice being built according to Christ's standard is His kingdom on earth. It arises as one individual or family at a time is securely gathered in by covenants made with Heavenly Father through Christ and His Priesthood. Those gathered are either literal descendants of Jacob or adoptees into the fold.

In the latter days, His kingdom is called The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It's the stone "cut out of the mountain without hands." Pieces of it (stakes of Zion) will be established in every part of the globe as His gospel rolls forth. And it will never again be removed from the earth (Daniel 2:44-45; Doctrine & Covenants 65:2). It's the ensign to the nations inviting everyone to Christ (Isaiah 11:11-12). It's connecting all people who are doing good in some way, regardless of religious affiliation, so they will stand together against the fierce enemies of all goodness (Joel 3:14,16; Zechariah 14:1-4; Revelation 16:16).

After the great battle, when the whole earth eventually becomes flooded with perfect understanding of Him who has redeemed them—humbly receiving whatever doctrinal correction is necessary—all who are here will be His people (Micah 4:1-2; Habakkuk 2:14; Zech. 14:9; Ephesians 1:10; 2:19-22). And they will build and flourish gloriously as He reigns in righteousness among them (Ezekiel 37:25-28).



The Lord said He would set a plumb line in the midst of His people to be a standard for them (Amos 7:7-8). Artwork by Tanner Finlinson, age 15

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GATHERING TOGETHER AGAIN

Tempe Interfaith Fellowship

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE

By Emily Jex Boyle

This season of the year is full of gatherings of family and friends. Between Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, the opportunities to gather are often plentiful. It seems as a community, we are thankful more than ever for moments to come together. Perhaps, even more, we recognize our need for just such times as these in the turbulent world in which we live.

This November, the Tempe Interfaith Fellowship will be holding the annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service of Worship, to be held on Tuesday, November 22 at 7pm, at Dayspring United Methodist Church, 1365 E Elliot Rd, Tempe, 85284. The service has not been in-person since the pandemic. This November will be a return to in-person for this free event. All are welcome to attend. The evening will also be broadcast via Zoom.

According to Marcus Johnson, president of the Tempe Arizona Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, this interfaith Thanksgiving service is a longstanding yearly opportunity to gather with members of the community to share in word and through music a moment of gratitude. This year, the event will include an anthem by an interfaith choir assembled by singers from each of the faith communities participating. Each year, an offering basket is passed around during the service. All donations go directly to local charities.

Local church leaders who make up the loose but unified fellowship meet monthly and work regularly together. Nearly two decades ago, the Tempe Interfaith fellowship helped establish the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP). Now, the fellowship helps by regularly opening their spaces to those experiencing homelessness. The fellowship also provides them with warm meals. Earlier this year, the fellowship was happy to welcome Tempe Town Mayor Corey Woods who officially recognized May 4 as Tempe Day of Prayer.

When asked about some of the blessings of the participation in the interfaith fellowship, the Reverend Dr. Eric O. Ledermann from the University Presbyterian Church in Tempe replies, "We show up for each other." When tragedies or trials surface for faith communities, the fellowship come together, demonstrating love and support, exemplifying peace.

In the late 19th century, Theodore Baker, an American music scholar and lexicographer, translated the well-known hymn known in English as, "Prayer of Thanksgiving '' from German to English. Part of the hymn reads,

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;

So from the beginning the fight we were winning; Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glory be thine!

Baker, who studied music in Leipzig, translated the words from German and gave the hymn its English title. The traditional Thanksgiving connection in the United States is attributed to Baker. He also wrote a dissertation on the music of the Seneca people of New York State, recognized as one of the first studies of American Indian music.

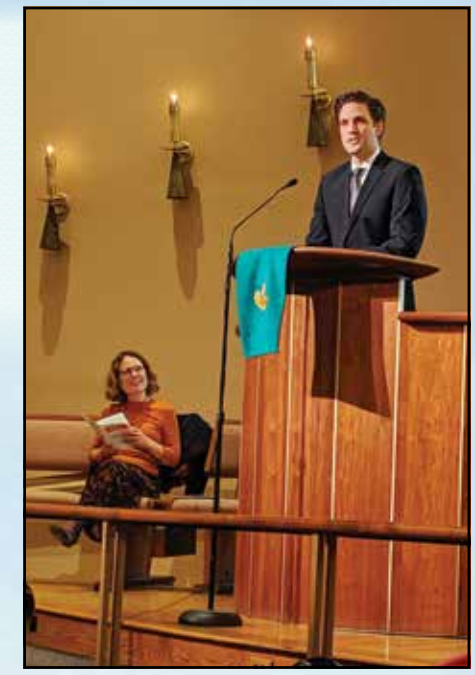

Photo by Tempe Interfaith Fellowship

Marcus Johnson (pictured here) addresses attendees at interfaith event. All are welcome to attend the free Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service to be held this year on Tuesday, November 22 at Dayspring United Methodist Church in Tempe.

As part of your Thanksgiving week's activities, consider participating in person or via Zoom for the annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service of Worship on Tuesday, November 22 at 7pm, at Dayspring United Methodist Church, 1365 E Elliot Rd, Tempe, 85284.

Photo by: Tempe Interfaith Fellowship

Local church leaders from various faith communities meet regularly to collaborate and offer support in the community.

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What's Cooking?

By Rachael Fuller

BASIC PIE CRUST

Recipe courtesy of Thomas Keller – *Ad Hoc at Home*

Pie Takes Center Stage!

It is that time of year, full of family, friends, and definitely all the food. In our family, whether for Thanksgiving or Christmas, pie takes center stage. Every year I end up making about a dozen pies over the holidays. We make cherry, pumpkin, lemon meringue, chocolate, apple and anything else that tickles my fancy.

One key to a great pie is a wonderfully flaky crust. A pro tip for pie: don't overwork your crust. It is not bread, and therefore you do not want any gluten development. Another key is keeping the butter cold and your crust chilled until they are ready to be baked.

This is my favorite crust recipe and is a crowd pleaser for savory or sweet pies. Enjoy baking!

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for rolling
- 1 ¼ teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 ½ sticks (10 ounces) unsalted butter, cut into ½ inch pieces and chilled
- About 5 tablespoons ice water

INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1: Combine the flour and salt in a large bowl.

STEP 2: Add butter and toss with flour.

STEP 3: With your hands or a pastry blender, work the butter into the flour. Keep working butter until there are no butter pieces larger than a pea.

STEP 4: Drizzle ¼ cup of the water over the top of mixture.

STEP 5: Using a fork, mix until the dough just holds together when pinched. If needed, add additional water.

STEP 6: Turn dough out onto a floured surface and knead until dough is smooth and butter is completely incorporated.

STEP 7: Divide dough in half, with one piece slightly larger than the other. The larger piece will serve as the bottom crust.

STEP 8: Shape dough into 1-inch thick discs and wrap tightly with plastic wrap.

STEP 9: Refrigerate for at least one hour or up to one day.

STEP 10: When dough is ready to roll out, flour your work surface and rolling pin.

STEP 11: Roll dough out to a 13-14-inch round, about an eighth-inch thick.

STEP 12: Roll outward from the center, rotating the dough often and adding flour as needed to keep dough from sticking.

STEP 13: Fold dough and place in a 9-10-inch pie plate, gently easing the dough up the sides.

STEP 14: Roll out second dough using the same technique to a 12-inch round.

STEP 15: Place on parchment lined cookie sheet and refrigerate both doughs for 15 minutes.

STEP 16: Bake pie crusts according to filling recipes.

Lots of pies. Photo by Nick Fuller
Pie dough. Photo by Rebecca Seigel

The 30-Day Power of Positivity Challenge

Beehive BOOK REVIEW

By Cindy R. Williams

Positivity Happens, a book for women based on the three pillars of Holiatry (hoh-lee-a-tree), which are physical, psychological, and social—in that order," says the author, Lauri Mackey of Prescott, AZ.

"If we are not nourished physically, both with nutrition and movement, it's hard to focus on the psychological self that helps us learn and grow. Once these two pillars are fairly solid, we then interact with others. Positivity Happens was written to give women hope toward their own plan of happiness," Mackey says.

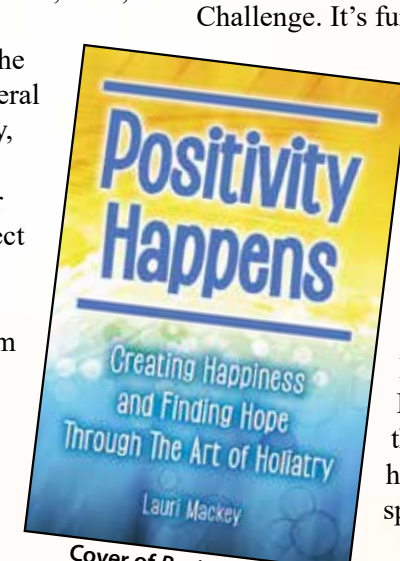
Photo by Marci Shadd of Click & Bloom
Author Lauri Mackey

Mackey says the negativity in our world needs to be counterbalanced with positivity.

Her life inspired her to write *Positivity Happens*. "I know what it's like to make poor choices. I've made plenty of them! These moments could have broken my spirit. …But I chose to take these blocks and build a bridge to a life of positivity," explains Mackey.

One of Mackey's favorite activities in the book helps with self-care, using your five senses: sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.

Mackey says, "Write the five senses down, list several favorites in each category, then pick one thing per category and create your own self-date! My perfect self-date was a diffuser filled with wild orange essential oils, food from my favorite restaurant, with the dishwasher running (one of my favorite sounds growing up), and a cozy fire in the fireplace, all while reading my favorite book from my favorite author wrapped up in a snuggly blanket. All five senses were represented, and I was in heaven!"



Cover of Positivity Happens

"Near the book's end is a 30-Day Positivity Challenge. It's fun, uplifting," says Mackey.

Mackey says the one message she wants readers to get from the book is "Hope, period. There was a time in my life when I felt very small and even crushed down in the dirt. At these low points, it's important to let that small pinprick of light in. That pinprick of light is hope. Let it in and let it expand in you. It will bring happiness to you and then to those around you. Hope and happiness are contagious –let's go spreading them both."

Positivity Happens can be found on Amazon.

The Real Heirlooms are Memories that Get Passed Down

The author's parents.

It's November and the season of feeling and expressing gratitude is upon us. We are in the midst of what Dickens called "the best of times and the worst of times". The gospel of Jesus Christ is upon the earth and all of the joys that it brings with it. Now is the season to show our thanks for the many blessings that we have. Sometimes when things are hard we have to look a little harder to find them but they are there.

This season leads us into the month of December. After expressing and feeling gratitude we turn our thoughts to the Christmas holidays. We are all feeling the pinch of what is going on and we wonder how we will celebrate without causing greater stress in our lives. It is time to pause and consider our heirlooms, our treasures. What can we do to make these the center of our holidays?

This year my mother passed away and went to join my father. I know that was a very happy reunion. They spent 76 years of their 90 plus years together. I know they are happy. That makes me stop and ponder: How can I share some of those memories and stories with my children? How can I make the lives of their grandparents a part of their lives? How can they remember their dad's parents? How can I help these people become the real heirlooms in their lives?

I can write stories and I can add pictures to FamilySearch. But, is there more that I can do? How about turning one or more of those stories into a play that they could act out? My mom told the story of being taken to the principal's office for throwing snowballs the wrong way. Can you this scene acted out and the different versions that would come out of that? Would costumes be added to the play? How would a 10-year-old girl dress back in 1938? Did she cry or was she mad?

So, let's get creative. Think outside the box. What can we do that will bring the greatest memories? When our children were growing up we would read a different Christmas story each night in December. We would drive around the city looking at lights. This reminds me that the lights will be back on at the Mesa Arizona Temple this year. I can't wait to see how they will look. We listened to and sang carols all month long and sometimes longer.

Last year for Christmas we gave our children memories. We had each family over individually for dinner and games. It was fun. I hope it will be something that they will remember for many years to come.

Maybe taking time to ponder can help all of us to slow down and enjoy the greatest gifts our Heavenly Father has given to us. It can bring the joy of family and giving and remembering our Savior into the center of our holidays.

By Lynne Tolman

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★★★★★
This funeral home is absolutely amazing. I am in California and my mother went to heaven in Arizona. Their prices are also very competitable. Courtney B. Lockhart, Esq

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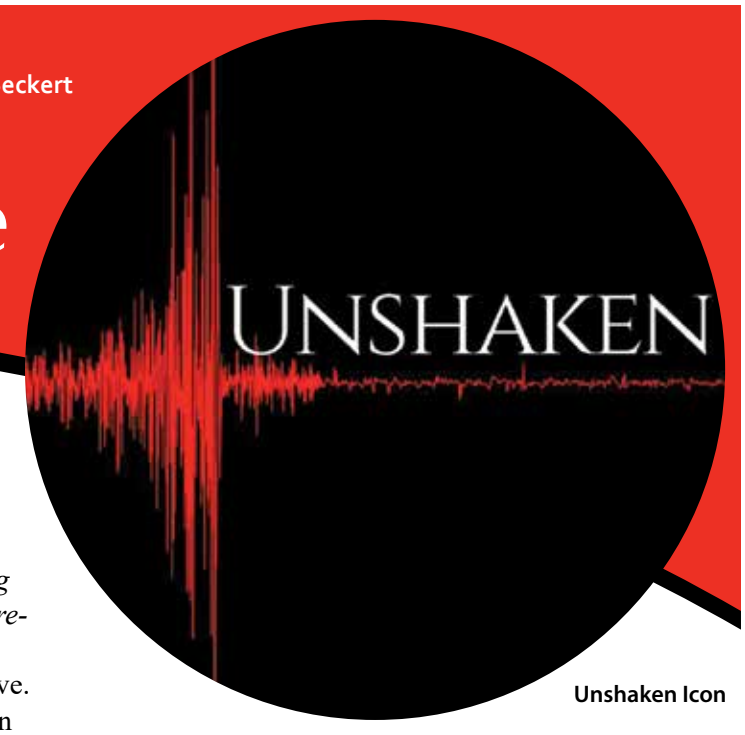
A Wealth of Knowledge
UNSHAKEN Study on YouTube

By Allison Beckert



Unshaken Icon

Come Follow Me, like its previous study structures in Sunday School and Institute manuals, has given members an accessible structure for approaching the scriptures and seeking the blessings connected to scripture study. We all come to the scriptures with different motivations and with different hopes in mind. There are blessings connected to simple faithful diligence. Some of us look to actively grow through study, finding ways to build our connection to God or ways to build and improve our own character. Still others come to the scriptures in search of healing after a painful loss or event. One tool available to us is a YouTube channel focused on *Come Follow Me* and personal study: Unshaken. Through its teacher and content, this program emphasizes maintaining our foundations of faith through challenges to it.

Unshaken is like many other *Come Follow Me* study aides in that it follows very closely the program's weekly block of scripture. Its title comes from a few sources, and a common theme, but more directly from Jacob 7:5 in the Book of Mormon:

"And he had hope to shake me from the faith, notwithstanding the many revelations and the many things which I had seen concerning these things; for I truly had seen angels, and they had ministered unto me. And also, I had heard the voice of the Lord speaking unto me in very word, from time to time; wherefore, I could not be shaken." (Jacob 7:5)

This is such a victorious quote, and instructive. It's a fitting one, particularly for Jared Halverson who is the host of the channel and presenter of the in-depth discussions. Halverson has an impressive education. Part of what makes the channel notable is his determination to pursue an understanding of what forces and influences cause faith loss. Secularization and anti-religious rhetoric don't always take center stage, but with his powerful background, Brother Halverson's choices with his scriptural discussion make this resource ideal for those working to build or rebuild their personal connection to scripture and faith.

The YouTube channel is also shared as an audio-only podcast, creating increased accessibility. It is several hours long, so for those looking for an easy, amusing study aid lasting a relatively short one-half hour or less, this would not be the best fit. However, anyone looking for a welcoming place to spend time closely communing with a sometimes verse by verse analysis of scripture that really breaks down the messages will find a wealth of knowledge here. There are many times in our lives that a block of

Continued on pg. 26

Self Reliance
Self Esteem Skills for Seniors - Part 1

By Nancy Rasmussen

For the power is in them wherein they are agents unto themselves.
~ D&C 58:28

The share of Arizona's population age 65 and older increased from 13.9 percent in 2010 to 18.3 percent in 2021. According to Pew Research the percentage of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints members 65 years of age and older was 17 percent in 2021.

Those of us in this age group face spiritual, physical and emotional challenges. Current events and personal limitations have caused overwhelming self-esteem trials.

The first installment of this two-part series will focus on spiritual, social and personal hygiene habits intended to increase self-esteem and well-being in everyone, especially seniors.

Self-esteem

Self-esteem is a challenging topic for people regardless of age. Studies show that on average, our self-esteem rises throughout adulthood until it peaks around the age of 60. If you think about it, that makes sense. We spend our lives working to attain certain milestones, and as we reach middle age, most of those milestones have been achieved. You might enjoy stable work with regular income, a solid family life, and close relationships with your spouse, partner, and others.

As we grow older, these things can start to slip away. Children leave the nest; you may enter retirement or feel as if the workforce has outpaced you. Health challenges start to develop, affecting you or a loved one. These are all major life experiences, and any type of major change is accompanied by a certain amount of anxiety. It's no wonder that aging is often served with a side of lower self-esteem. But there are ways to improve one's positive outlook on life even in old age. So, what are five things older adults can do to improve their self-esteem as they age?

Continuing to learn and enhance skills builds self-esteem.

Make Strong Social Bonds

Meaningful personal connections ground us and boost our confidence. Research shows that seniors who enjoy the support of close family and friends have higher self-esteem than those who go it alone. However, it's a bit of a catch twenty-two, because seniors who suffer from poor self-esteem may find it hard to develop close friendships as they age. If this sounds like you, start small.

Think of something you enjoy doing and find a group that participates in those activities. Join a book club, a knitting circle, or take a cooking class. There are community groups on social media that

Continued on pg. 26

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Keeping It In The Family

BUNKER FAMILY FUNERALS

By Talia A. K. Abbott

It is rare to find family-owned businesses still in operation. According to statistics provided by SC Johnson College of Business, "The average life span of a family-owned business is 24 years." (www.johnson.cornell.edu) The stats are even more dismal as trans-generational ownership is factored in. "More than 30% of all family-owned businesses survive into the second generation. Twelve percent will still be viable into the third generation, with 3% of all family businesses operating at the fourth-generation level and beyond." (fbagr.org/resources/cited-stats)

Despite the statistics, Bunker Family Funerals and Crematorium in Mesa, Arizona has been in the family for four generations.

The business was originally founded and operated by M.L. Gibbons in 1913. The Bunker family became partners with Gibbons, providing much-needed personal services to local residents. By 1976, the Bunker family purchased the company's entire stock, retiring their wonderful partner, and continue to operate the business to this day.

At the time of the Bunker's business purchase other local funeral service providers were well established and family-owned. Today the story is different. The Bunker family operates the last family-owned, non-corporate funeral home in the east Phoenix valley. In recent months, the last remaining family-owned funeral homes have sold out to large corporations. When asked why they haven't gone corporate, Bunker Family Funeral Director Bryce Bunker explains, "I believe that funerals are personal. They shouldn't operate from a high rise a few states away."

For Bryce, funerals are a personal affair. People grieve over the loved ones they once had. This grief takes a toll and makes it hard to say farewell. Bryce knows this and understands that corporations often lack the personal touch which locally focused, family-run businesses provide. Bunker Family Funerals wants families to focus on healing, grieving, and being with their loved ones. It makes the funeral service a special experience not only for the families but also for him.

"I love having a front-row seat to the impact that we provide to grieving families," Bryce relates. The Bunker family is here personally for families and helps them through the post-life care process of their loved ones. The experience they provide is like "wrapping their arms around people" in a warm embrace.

Bunker Garden Chapel Entryway.

The Bunker Family and Their Generations.

Bunker Family Funerals recognizes the wonderful caregivers and healthcare providers in their community on their Facebook page. A recent post reads, "We are so honored to shine a spotlight on those special individuals in our community who take great pride in their profession, go above and beyond and touch the lives of families in our community. Thank you so much for making a difference!" (www.facebook.com/BunkerCares).

The Bunker family truly cares about their Mesa community. Bryce says he and his family have no plans to leave the business anytime soon, and expect the business to continue his family legacy now and in future generations.

For more information, visit bunkerfuneral.com. Find them on Facebook and Twitter.

Unshaken Study
Continued from pg. 24

a significant amount of time with the scriptures can provide peace and calm when nothing else will.

Subscribe on YouTube, or on your favorite podcast provider for the audio only version. There are typically two parts for each week, released before Wednesday for that block.

https://www.youtube.com/c/Unshaken/featured

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Self Esteem Skills for Seniors
Continued from pg. 24

focus on certain interests. Subscribe to one or two of them and practice connecting with new people. You can also consider volunteering for an organization that interests you. Check out JustServe.org. Walk dogs at an animal shelter, be an usher at a local community theater, or volunteer to help in local events such as an annual fishing tournament.

Anything that gets you out there connecting with other people is bound to make you feel good, keep you active, and boost your self-esteem. And who knows? You might find you enjoy making new friends.

Practice Good Personal Hygiene

It doesn't matter how old you are, no one feels good about themselves if they sit around in their bathrobe all day long. Positive self-worth starts when you believe that you're worth taking care of. It's easy to let personal hygiene slide, especially if you're retired and spending more time alone. Give your self-confidence a boost and take the time to get out of bed, bathe, and get dressed as if you were expecting company.

If you need assistance with these tasks, investigate home care to help daily. You'll soon find that simply dressing as if you're going out in the world will make you feel more confident and may even lead to other activities outside the home. If you think you look good, chances are you'll feel good, too.

The second installment of this series will appear in the January/February 2023 issue, and will address negative stereotypes, health and activity and ways to practice independence, all aimed at renewing and enhancing senior self-esteem.

Beehive Community Services

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Three Local Charities To Support This Christmas

By Hillary Fevrier

We find ourselves in this glorious time of year when many of us are looking for special ways to show our dedication to the Savior through service. The new For the Strength of Youth guide encourages us to "reach out to those who feel lonely, isolated, or helpless." While many of us feel the urge to do that year-round, the Christmas season provides us with opportunities to celebrate the birth of Jesus by walking in His footsteps.

Photo courtesy of Sarena Sharp

Volunteers find joy while serving.

One of the Valley's most respected non-profit organizations, Gathering Humanity started as an organization that served refugees, providing them with furnished apartments upon their arrival in the Phoenix area. The team has been immensely successful, touching thousands of lives every year. Due to their amazing accomplishments, the Gathering Humanity team decided to add some celebratory service opportunities to their organization. The reach of the organization's Christmas programs spans further than the day-to-day impact. Three opportunities offered by Gathering Humanity are the Adopt a Refugee program, the Christmas Stocking program, and the Christmas Goody Bags program.

Adopt a Refugee

This program allows an individual, family, group, or business to "adopt" a single refugee or a refugee family for Christmas. Volunteers are matched and then are able to shop for and connect with their pairing. The Gathering Humanity website explains, "Refugees arrive with almost nothing yet need to resettle in a new country, a new culture, with a new language. It can be overwhelming. Your contributions provide a warm welcome, fulfill needs, and help our new neighbors during a difficult transition this holiday season." For more information about the adopt a refugee program, visit https://forms.gle/JcbJ8GThqRxV-LzQU6

The Christmas Stockings Program

This program has an even broader reach, providing stockings to anyone in a vulnerable situation, be they refugees, homeless, unaccompanied minors, people seeking protection in shelters, or otherwise. Last year (the second year of the Stockings program) volunteers provided almost 2,000 stockings to their neighbors in need. To get involved with the Christmas Stockings program, visit https://forms.gle/97rscXy95ety4hWi9

Christmas Goody Bags

Finally, Gathering Humanity offers simple, inexpensive goody bags to groups of vulnerable and at-risk individuals. The goody bags bring opportunities for groups to serve together, decorating paper bags then filling them with an orange, a candy bar, and a candy cane. As simple as the good bag may be, for some people it could be the only gift they receive. For more information about the goody bag program, visit https://forms.gle/fU6Z6YqiqyXf8UWZ6.

Gathering Humanity's many opportunities make it easy to serve our neighbors and be the hands of the Lord in our community. Sarena Sharp, director of the holiday events at Gathering Humanity says, "Serving during Christmas brings miracles and magic," and it's safe to say, we could all use some more miracles and magic in our lives.

For further information, contact ghchristmas@gatheringhumanity.org or visit the website gatheringhumanity.org.

Photo courtesy of Sarena Sharp

Simple goody bags may be someone's only gift this year.

VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Additional Information:

- Appointments for proxy ordinances are encouraged. Patrons without appointments are also welcome, but may be asked to wait for an opportunity to participate. To schedule or modify a proxy appointment, visit your temple's information at https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples
- Patrons are encouraged to bring their own temple clothing.
- Ordinances for family names must be done in proper sequence—baptism, confirmation, Melchizedek Priesthood ordination (males), initiatory, endowment, and then sealing. Please allow sufficient time to perform all the ordinances you wish to complete during your visit. For additional help and information, please call the temple.
- Please contact the temple for more information or if you have special circumstances or needs.
- Temple websites can be found by searching churchofjesuschrist.org/temples

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